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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/FRENCH

Forty-seventh session
Item 98 of the preliminary list*

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Letter dated 20 April 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text, in English and French, of a statement of the European Community and its member States on Equatorial Guinea, issued at Lisbon and Brussels on 15 April 1992 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 98 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Fernando REINO
Ambassador of Portugal
Permanent Representative to the United Nations

* A/47/50.

ANNEX

Statement on Equatorial Guinea issued by the European Community and its member States on 15 April 1992

The Community and its member States are concerned at the continuing violations of human rights in Equatorial Guinea, which risk endangering the process of democratization initiated with the recent review of the Constitution.

They express their strong disquiet at recent developments, in particular regarding arrests and arbitrary detentions during which those concerned would have been subjected to brutality.

The Community and its member States wish to reaffirm the great importance they attach to the respect of human rights in accordance with article 5 of the fourth ACP-EEC Lomé Convention and with the resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Community of 28 November 1991 on human rights, democracy and development.

They consider that the development of Equatorial Guinea cannot be guaranteed without the largest participation of all segments of the population. To this effect, they invite the Government to establish a constructive dialogue with all political and social forces of the country, with a view to promoting the regime's democratization. In order to allow for an effective participation of all nationals of Equatorial Guinea in this process, all exiled people who so wish should be allowed to return to the country.

In this context, the Community and its member States will continue to follow with particular care developments with regard to the situation of human rights in Equatorial Guinea, as well as the evolution of the process of democratization.

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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 20 April 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text, in English and French, of a statement of the European Community and its member States on Afghanistan, issued at Lisbon and Brussels on 16 April 1992 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 69 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Fernando REINO
Ambassador of Portugal
Permanent Representative to the United Nations

* A/47/50.

ANNEX

Statement on Afghanistan issued by the European Community and its member States on 16 April 1992

The Community and its member States welcome the statement of the Secretary-General of the United Nations of 10 April and fully support the United Nations plan which provides the basis for a peaceful solution of the Afghan issue through a transitional mechanism leading to the creation of an interim government and the holding of free and fair elections.

The Community and its member States attach considerable importance to an early transfer of power so as to safeguard the unity and territorial integrity of Afghanistan, which has received the support of all Governments concerned. They particularly commend the efforts of the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Benon Sevan, towards a political settlement in Afghanistan.

The Community and its member States fully support the implementation of the United Nations plan and urge all parties concerned to refrain from any action that might jeopardize the positive efforts now under way. They hope there will be an end to the hostilities and the declaration of a general amnesty will come into force after President Najibullah hands over power.

The Community and its member States wish to point out that, in addition to the recent food aid to Afghan refugees in Pakistan, a further positive response to Mr. Boutros-Ghali's urgent appeal for food aid is at present being considered.

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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 20 April 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text, in English and French, of a statement of the European Community and its member States on Bosnia and Herzegovina, issued at Lisbon and Brussels on 16 April 1992 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 69 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Fernando REINO
Ambassador of Portugal
Permanent Representative to the United Nations

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ANNEX

Statement on Bosnia and Herzegovina issued by the European Community and its member States on 16 April 1992

The Community and its member States, recalling their statement of 11 April, strongly condemn the violence that is now spreading in Bosnia and Herzegovina at the hands of various armed elements with the support of regular forces, and in particular of the JNA. They call upon all parties concerned to strictly abide by the cease-fire agreed upon. All sides should refrain from any measures, such as the sending of military reinforcements into Bosnia and Herzegovina, that can only serve to exacerbate the situation. In particular, they urge the Belgrade authorities to do all in their power to prevent violent activities by Serbian irregulars.

The Community and its member States, recalling that they will never accept a de facto situation created by violence, condemn the use of force, intimidation and provocations perpetrated by nationalist extremists, as well as any attempts from outside to destabilize Bosnia and Herzegovina. Parties responsible for such actions will be held internationally accountable for their acts.

They support the Bosnian Government in its efforts to bring about a peaceful solution by respecting the rights of all ethnic and national groups in that Republic and expect all parties to pursue, without delay, the negotiations on the future constitutional arrangements under the auspices of the Peace Conference.

The Community and its member States call on all parties concerned and on all republics - in particular on Serbia and Croatia - to fully support the mission of the personal envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Cyrus Vance, to the area. They demand the reopening of the airport of Sarajevo for humanitarian relief. They expect all sides to allow a safe and unrestricted access by the ECMM in the dispatch of its duty.

The Community and its member States, while reaffirming their wish for the Security Council of the United Nations to remain actively involved in this question, have brought the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina before the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in concert with other members of that conference.

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REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS

Letter dated 20 April 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text, in English and French, of a statement of the European Community and its member States on Burma, issued at Lisbon and Brussels on 15 April 1992 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 97 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Fernando REINO
Ambassador of Portugal
Permanent Representative to
the United Nations

* A/47/50.

ANNEX

Statement on Burma issued by the European Community and its member States on 15 April 1992

The Community and its member States recall their statement of 20 March 1992 expressing great concern at the actions taken by the Burmese authorities against minorities, stressing the plight of Muslim Rohingyas that fled into Bangladesh, currently estimated to number about 200,000.

They also regard with great apprehension the military offensive against Karens, which has led to the influx of Karen refugees into Thailand.

In this context, the Community and its member States recall their decision on 29 July 1991 to refuse the sale of any military equipment to Burma and call gain on all other countries to take similar action.

The Community and its member States welcome the visit of the United Nations Secretary-General's representative, Mr. Jan Eliasson, to Bangladesh and Burma as part of the ongoing effort to find solutions to a situation that is seriously threatening regional stability and worrying the international community.

The Community and its member States urge the Burmese Government on strictly humanitarian grounds to refrain from further military and any other repressive action against minorities in Burma. They also urge Burma to cooperate with neighbouring countries, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and non-governmental organizations to resolve existing refugee problems on the Bangladesh and Thai borders by facilitating the return of refugees through appropriate assurances that their civil and human rights will be respected.

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NECESSITY OF ENDING THE ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL EMBARGO IMPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AGAINST CUBA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 24 April 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba in response to a statement made by the President of the United States on 18 April 1992 concerning my country (see annex).

I request you to arrange for this letter and its annex to be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 39 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ricardo ALARCON de QUESADA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Cuba
to the United Nations

* A/47/50.

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ANNEX

Statement issued on 22 April 1992 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba

On 18 April 1992 George Bush made a statement in which he reaffirmed his intention to tighten even further the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

The statement comes at a time when criticism of this hostile policy is becoming more pronounced than ever before among broad sectors of world public opinion, one of the main purposes of the statement being to hamper the efforts of those who oppose that policy.

It is odd that, at a time when opposition to the United States embargo against Cuba is gathering force among men, women and official and non-governmental organizations representing the most diverse currents of opinion, the President of the United States should make a statement in which he takes so opposite a position.

The facts are so obvious that even officials of the Washington Government have admitted to them in their public remarks.

A recent example is the statement made by a representative of the State Department, Mr. Robert Gelbard, at a hearing conducted in the United States Congress on 8 April.

On that occasion, Gelbard told the legislators that "some Governments" agreed that Cuba should not receive any aid, but that "very few" favoured the imposition of what he called an embargo on the island.

The growing attention paid by world public opinion to this matter was also highlighted towards the end of 1991, when the United Nations General Assembly decided at its forty-sixth session to include in its agenda an item entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba".

As everyone is aware, this item will be open for discussion at the meetings of the General Assembly's session this year.

One of the arguments advanced last year by the United States delegation to the United Nations in its attempt to prevent inclusion of the item in the agenda was that the issue was one of a bilateral embargo - consistent with the provisions of international law - and not a blockade.

Even though there are numerous United States provisions currently in force and from years past which demonstrate conclusively how the White House has been trying to extend its jurisdiction beyond its own territory in order

to impose its laws, orders and regulations on Cuba. Bush's most recent pronouncement on the subject is of singular significance in this context.

The President makes no attempt to conceal his intention of imposing on Cuba a political, economic and social order which is consistent with Washington's interests, while, without shrinking from hinting at reprisals against countries which do not toe this line, he casts himself in the role of leader of a crusade in which "my administration will continue to stress to the Governments of the entire world" the necessity of isolating the island economically.

In this context and without the slightest moral - or diplomatic, for that matter - hesitation, Bush proclaimed his intention of violating the recognized principle of freedom of the seas when he stated that he had instructed the Department of the Treasury to issue regulations prohibiting vessels engaging in trade with Cuba from entering United States ports.

The United States chief executive has thus openly violated the internationally recognized rules of law in accordance with which no State may employ pressure, coercion or any other actions in restraint of free merchant shipping and freedom of navigation.

This aggressive stance, together with other foreign policy actions in the early years of the 1990s, is a further indication of how the United States Government understands the so-called new world order, while at the same time it sounds a warning that Washington may be seeking to mount a naval blockade against Cuba which would have incalculable consequences.

And this is happening precisely at a time when in many places around the world in a massive, fraternal joining together of people of all races and beliefs, people are pledging their willingness to stand by Cuba's side to send - as the promoters have said - an oil tanker or a ship carrying medicines or powdered milk to our people who are stoically bearing the brunt of a double embargo, especially the embargo which Bush is seeking to tighten further in the name of opening a channel between us and the so-called "peaceful transition to democracy".

The United States President knows that the ships which he is trying to prevent from reaching Cuba are carrying foodstuffs and medicines for the Cuban people and supplies needed, inter alia, to provide electric lighting in our homes, to harvest the sugar crop or to keep the school system functioning.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba believes that the statement by the President of the United States in which the ideas described above were put forward has undoubtedly performed the service of highlighting the brutal reality of the economic, trade and financial embargo against our country, and at the same time it has shown the President to be a public instigator of illegal actions violating time-honoured legal norms observed by civilized Governments and nations.

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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Letter dated 27 April 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement made by a spokesman of the Government of Japan on 27 April 1992 concerning the situation in Myanmar (announcement of a period for convening a national convention) (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 98 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Yoshio HATANO
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of
Japan to the United Nations

* A/47/50.

ANNEX

Statement made on 27 April 1992 by the Press Secretary/ Director-General for Public Information and Cultural Affairs of Japan on the situation in Myanmar (announcement of a period for convening a national convention)

The Government of Japan notes as a positive move the announcement by the Government of Myanmar on 24 April of its intention to convene a national convention within six months to determine basic principles for drafting a constitution and to free some political prisoners soon. It strongly hopes that this decision will lead to a prompt transfer of power to a civilian government.

The Government of Japan has requested the Government of Myanmar on various occasions to clarify the process of transfer of power to a civilian government, including the timing of holding a national convention. It also intends to continue diplomatic efforts for the realization of a speedy transfer of power to a civilian government.